

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 36/221 and 37/147 on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda;

2. *Takes note* of the ongoing consultations between the Governments concerned on the establishment of an inter-governmental body to combat the effects of drought and other natural disasters and urges them to finalize, as soon as possible, the necessary arrangements for the establishment of that body;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-ordination with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the appropriate specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to extend all necessary assistance to those countries in their efforts to combat the effects of drought on the basis of the recommendations of various multi-agency missions, pending the establishment of the intergovernmental body;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-ordination with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the appropriate specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to assist the Governments of the region, at their request, in establishing or improving national machinery to combat the effects of drought and other natural disasters, to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1984, of the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

104th plenary meeting
20 December 1983

38/217. Special assistance to alleviate the economic and social problems faced in regions of Honduras and Nicaragua as a result of the May 1982 floods and other subsequent natural disasters

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 on assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations and 37/144 of 17 December 1982 on the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

Taking note of resolution 419 (PLEN.15) on international assistance to alleviate the economic and social problems faced by Honduras and Nicaragua as a result of the May 1982 floods,²¹⁴ adopted by the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America at its fifteenth special session, held in New York on 22 and 23 July 1982,

Taking into account Economic and Social Council decision 1982/168 of 29 July 1982, by which the Council endorsed resolution 419 (PLEN.15) of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

Mindful that by its decision 37/433 of 17 December 1982, adopted in pursuance of Economic and Social Council decision 1982/168, it endorsed resolution 419 (PLEN.15),

Bearing in mind that the damage caused by the May 1982 floods in Honduras and Nicaragua has still not been made good,

Bearing in mind also that, during 1983, weather conditions in the south-west region of Honduras and the north-west region of Nicaragua have again been detrimental owing to a prolonged drought, which has caused heavy losses in the production of basic grains and other agricultural products, a phenomenon unprecedented in the past fifty years in Honduras, and which has affected thousands of rural families in those regions in both countries,

Considering that, because of the current drought and despite national efforts in both countries, the economic and social situation of those regions has worsened and the need for assistance from the international community is even greater,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the States Members, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system that have provided emergency aid to Honduras and Nicaragua, in order to enable them to cope with the disaster;

2. *Appeals* to the States Members, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to Honduras and Nicaragua, in order to counter the serious economic and social consequences of the natural disasters experienced during the past two years in the regions referred to above;

3. *Makes an urgent appeal* to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to take immediate steps to prevent the situation from becoming a state of emergency;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

104th plenary meeting
20 December 1983

38/218. Economic assistance to Vanuatu

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3421 (XXX) of 8 December 1975 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in which it urged the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to extend assistance to the newly independent and emerging States,

Recalling also its resolutions 31/156 of 21 December 1976, 32/185 of 19 December 1977, 34/205 of 19 December 1979, 35/61 of 5 December 1980 and 37/206 of 20 December 1982, in which it urged all Governments, in particular those of the developed countries, to lend their support, in the context of their assistance programmes, for the implementation of the specific action envisaged in favour of island developing countries, and in which it also called upon all organizations of the United Nations system to implement, within their respective spheres of competence, appropriate specific actions in favour of island developing countries,

Recalling further resolutions 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976,²¹⁵ 111 (V) of 3 June 1979,²¹⁶ and 138 (VI) of 2 July 1983²¹⁷ of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development concerning special action related to the particular needs and problems of island developing countries,

Recognizing the difficult problems faced by island developing countries, owing mainly to their smallness, remoteness, constraints in transport, great distances from market centres, highly limited internal markets, lack of natural

²¹⁴ See E/CEPAL/G.1209/Rev.2, chap.IV.

²¹⁵ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Fifth Session, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Sixth Session, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

resources, heavy dependence on a few commodities, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens.

Taking into account the fact that Vanuatu is an island developing country and is small and archipelagic, which makes the provision of services difficult and entails very high overhead costs, because of inter-island distances.

Concerned at the severe constraints on the economic development of Vanuatu, particularly those ensuing from its geographical isolation,

Concerned also at the continued structural imbalances in the economy of the country, particularly its overwhelming dependence on imports,

Noting that the disadvantageous demographic and geographic features of Vanuatu, such as its physical remoteness, small area and small population, pose special development problems,

Noting also that, without good transport and communications links, any development will be difficult,

1. *Calls the attention* of the international community to the special problems confronting Vanuatu as an island developing country with a small population;

2. *Appeals* to Member States, regional and interregional organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to provide financial, material and technical assistance to Vanuatu to enable it to establish the social and economic infrastructure that is essential for the well-being of its people;

3. *Invites* the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to bring to the attention of their governing bodies, for their consideration, the special needs of Vanuatu and to report the decisions of those bodies to the Secretary-General by 15 July 1984;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to mobilize the financial, technical and economic assistance of the international community, in particular the developed countries and the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, with a view to meeting the short-term and long-term development needs of Vanuatu;

5. *Requests* the appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to maintain and increase their current and future programmes of assistance to Vanuatu, to co-operate closely with the Secretary-General in organizing an effective international programme of assistance and to report periodically to him on the steps they have taken and the resources they have made available to help that country;

6. *Requests* the Committee for Development Planning at its twentieth session, as a matter of priority, to give due consideration to the question of the inclusion of Vanuatu in the list of the least developed countries and to submit its

conclusions to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984;

7. *Calls upon* Member States, pending consideration by the Committee for Development Planning at its twentieth session of the report submitted to it and in view of the critical economic situation of Vanuatu, to accord Vanuatu special measures and, as a matter of priority, to give special consideration to the early inclusion of Vanuatu in their programmes of development assistance;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep this matter under review and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

104th plenary meeting
20 December 1983

38/219. Assistance to Cape Verde

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/99 of 13 December 1977, 33/127 of 19 December 1978, 34/119 of 14 December 1979, 35/104 of 5 December 1980, 36/211 of 17 December 1981 and 37/152 of 17 December 1982, in which the international community was requested to provide an appropriate level of resources for the implementation of the programme of assistance to Cape Verde as envisaged in the reports of the Secretary-General,²¹⁸

Recalling resolutions 142 (VI) and 138 (VI) of 2 July 1983 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development²¹⁷ on the progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries,²¹⁹ and on activities in the field of island developing countries,

Noting that Cape Verde is one of the least developed countries and a small archipelagic State, with a fragile and open economy, aggravated by endemic and severe drought,

Reiterating that increased substantial, continuous and predictable assistance from the international community is needed for the effective implementation of the First National Development Plan (1982-1985),

Gravely concerned at the critical food situation in Cape Verde resulting from the failure of seasonal rains and the continuing recurrence of drought,

Recognizing the strenuous efforts deployed by the Government and people of Cape Verde towards the economic and social development of their country despite existing constraints,

1. *Takes note* of the summary report of the Secretary-General²²⁰ prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 37/152;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the efforts deployed in mobilizing resources for the implementation of the programme of assistance to Cape Verde;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to States and to international, regional and interregional organizations and other intergovernmental organizations for their contribution to the programme of assistance to Cape Verde;

4. *Reaffirms* the need for all Governments and international organizations to implement their commitments undertaken within the framework of the Substantial New

²¹⁸ A/33/167 and Corr.1, A/34/372 and Corr.1, A/35/332 and Corr.1, A/36/265 and A/37/124.

²¹⁹ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A.

²²⁰ A/38/216, sect. V.